1   1.   A process for managing and authorizing rights in a computer system
2   comprising the steps of:
3   providing a first data structure including a first plurality of records
4   representing a plurality of works;
5   providing a second data structure, separate from said first data
6   structure, including a second plurality of records representing a plurality of
7   rights, wherein each of said plurality of rights is associated with at least
8   one of said plurality of works, and wherein each of said second plurality of
9   records includes one or more data elements representing one or more
10   dates including a permission date;
11   identifying at least one of said plurality of works in said first data
12   structure; and
13   searching said second plurality of records in said second data
14   structure to identify whether at least one of said plurality of rights is
15   associated with said at least one of said plurality of works.

1   2.   The process of claim 1, further comprising, provided that at least one of
2   said plurality of rights is associated with said at least one of said plurality
3   of works:
4   determining, using at least said permission date, whether a
5   potential licensee may be granted permission to exercise said at least one
6   of said plurality of works is contained with a second of said plurality of
7   works.

1   3.   The process of claim 1, further comprising, provided that at least one of
2   said plurality of rights is not associated with said at least one of said
3   plurality of works:

4		searching said first plurality of records representing said plurality of
5		works, to determine whether said at least one of said plurality of works is
6		contained within a second of said plurality of works.

1	4.	The process of claim 3, further comprising, provided that said at least one
2		of said plurality of works in contained within said second of said plurality of
3		works:
4		searching said second plurality of records in said second data
5		structure to identify whether at least one of said plurality of rights is
6		associated with said second of said plurality of works.

1	5.	The process of claim 4, further comprising, provided that at least one of
2		said plurality of rights is associated with said second of said plurality of
3		works:
4		determining, using at least said permission date, whether a
5		potential licensee may be granted permission to exercise said at least one
6		of said plurality of rights for a specified time period.

1	6.	The process of claim 2, wherein each of said plurality of rights in said
2		second data structure is limited to a type of use; and using said type of
3		use to determine authorizations.

1	7.	The process of claim 2, further comprising:
2		storing of a third data structure including a third plurality of records
3		representing relationships among said plurality of works in said first data
4		structure;
5		and using said relationships to determine authorizations.

1	8.	The process of claim 7 wherein the step of using said relationships to
2		determine authorizations comprises searching said third data structure to

20

3   determine whether a desired work is contained in another work and if so,

4   determining whether rights are available for said other work.

1   9.   The process of claim 7 wherein the step of using said relationships to

2   determine authorizations comprises searching said third data structure to

3   determine whether the other work is contained in a third work and, if so

4   determining whether rights are available for said third work.

1   10.   The process of claim 7 wherein the step of using said relationships to

2   determine authorizations comprises recursively searching said third data

3   structure until a work is found for which rights are available.

1   11.   The process of claim 2, wherein said one or more dates includes a validity

2   date that indicates a time period during which authorization is given to

3   grant a corresponding one of said plurality of rights.

1   12.   The process of claim 2, wherein said one or more dates further includes

2   an effective date indicating a time period during which said corresponding

3   one of said plurality of rights is effective; and using said effective date to

4   determine authorizations.

1   13.   The process of claim 2, wherein said permission date indicates a

2   permission date indicating a time period during which said corresponding

3   one of said plurality of rights may be exercised; and using said permission

4   date to determine authorizations.

1   14.   The process of claim 13, further comprising:

2   using said permission date to determine the time period in which a

3   potential licensee may exercise a right to at least one of said plurality of

4   works.

1 15. The process of claim 2, wherein said computer program determines fees
2 including royalty fees owed to a rightsholder based on stored data.

1 16. The process as in any of claims 1-15, wherein said plurality of works are
2 selected from the group consisting of copyrighted works, patents,
3 trademarks, trade secrets, and mask works.

1 17. The process as in any of claims 1-15, wherein said plurality of works are
2 parcels of real property.

1 18. The process as in any of claims 1-15, wherein said plurality of works are
2 contracts.